

Brave Hearts

Have you ever been frustrated because “bad guys” seemed to be in charge and “good guys” just stood around and did nothing? Have you ever wondered what God wanted you to do about it? Sometimes God asks us to wait, but sometimes He asks us to act in faith. In this story, two young men felt God called them to action (See 1 Samuel 14:1-23; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 616-626.)

“How much longer do we need to sit around this camp and do nothing?” Jonathan, the king’s son, was frustrated. His father and 600 men were camped out here under this pomegranate tree. They were depressed, bored, and the king certainly didn’t seem able to motivate anybody.

Some of the soldiers had even sneaked off to hide in nearby bushes and caves.

Sabbath

Do Do this week’s activity on page 94



THIRTEEN

POWER POINT

Sunday

Read Read "Brave Hearts."

Write Write the power text out with one word on each line, indenting each word a little from the one above.

Draw Draw a line down the outside edge of the words—like the side of a hill. Then add a stick figure on its knees on the hill. As you read over the power text a few times remember that nothing can hinder the Lord from saving you.

Pray Get on your knees to pray. At the end of your prayer, stay on your knees and repeat the power text one more time.

God uses
me as He makes
things happen.

POWER TEXT

"Come, let's go over....
Perhaps the Lord will act in our
behalf. Nothing can hinder the
Lord in saving, whether by
many or by few"

(1 Samuel 14:6, NIV).

Worst of all, the heathen Philistines, their enemies, were just laughing at these people who claimed to worship a powerful God.

This pitiful little band under the tree were armed with slings and bows and

Monday

Read Read 1 Samuel 13:16-23.

Imagine Can you imagine how these soldiers felt going into battle with no weapons?

Read Read Ephesians 6:10-20 and note how important spiritual armor is.

Pray Ask God for a full suit of God's armor to protect you from the enemy.

arrows. No one but the king and his son had swords or spears. The bothersome, arrogant Philistines even had the weapons under their control.

"I feel we should do something," Jonathan said to his faithful young armor-bearer. "I think we should make a secret attack on the Philistine outpost. I know that the Lord can do something mighty and save us whether we are a lot or just a few. We might at least be able to get some weapons."

"I am with you," his faithful friend replied, "heart and soul."

Very early the next morning, after committing their way to God, the two young men tiptoed past the

Tuesday

Read Read 1 Samuel 14: 1-7.

Draw On paper or in your Bible study journal, draw a large circle (a shield). Decorate the edges. Write the word "Faith" (Ephesians 6:16) in the middle. On the shield write ways that you can show your faith. Add to the list as the week progresses.

Pray Ask God to give you the faith you need to get into action for God.

Wednesday**Read** Read 1 Samuel 14:8-12.**Discover** Can you think of other times in the Bible when people have asked for or God has given a sign? (Refer to Genesis 9:13; Judges 6:37-40.)**Think** God does not always give signs. Sometimes He wants us to move ahead and act, or ask advice from Christian adults. By making sure our actions are in harmony with His Word we will stay close to Him.**Pray** Pray that you will not sit about idle as Saul did, but will become active for God.


dozing guards and made their way out of camp and down the gorge separating the two camps. As they came to the base of the thorny cliff on the other side, Jonathan had a strange idea. "Let them see us!" he said. "If they challenge us by saying, 'Stay there, we are on our way down to teach you a thing or two,' we will go back into the shadows and make our way back to our camp. But if they challenge us by saying, 'If you want to fight, show us your courage and come up here,' that will be a sign from God that He will help us win."

"Sounds like a plan to me," his armor-bearer agreed. And the two young men started clamoring about at the bottom of the gorge in full view of the enemy lookout.

A Philistine sentry spotted them almost immediately. "Hey, look what we have here—some frightened Hebrews who are crawling out of the holes they have been hiding in." He yelled down to them, "Come up here and show us your courage." Little did he know that was exactly what they planned to do!

Jonathan and his armor-bearer smiled as they heard the sign they were waiting for. "Come on, let's go win this battle." And they dropped out of sight again and took a secret and difficult path up the cliff face.

They took the Philistines by surprise. There was lots of yelling and sword wielding. Then the earth started to tremble, rock, and shake. "That must be God joining in the battle in a mighty way," Jonathan called to his armor-bearer above the noise.

The whole Philistine camp was in a panic, with soldiers waking to the ground rocking and the sounds of battle. They didn't wait to see what was happening. All they wanted to do was run. And run they did—in all directions—away from the camp.

The noise and confusion in the Philistine camp caught the attention of the Hebrew lookouts. They ran to Saul and reported what they were hearing. Saul called out to Ahijah the priest, "Quick, get the ark of the Lord and see what we should be doing."

Saul should have done that days ago. And now he was even too impatient to wait for the answer. "Forget it," he called back over his shoulder. "We don't have time to pray; I'm going to battle."

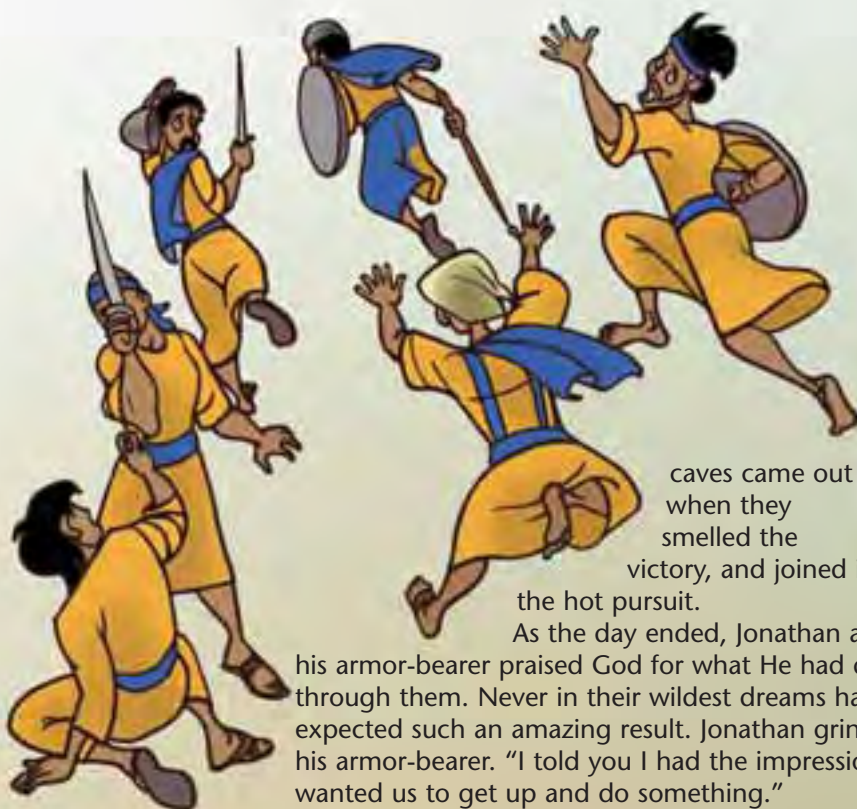
Saul and his band were able to chase the already confused Philistines away from the area. Even some of the Hebrews who had been hiding in the hills and

Thursday

Read Read 1 Samuel 14:13-15.

Think Have you ever experienced an earthquake? Recently some devastating ones have done tremendous damages. What action could you take to help victims of earthquakes?

Pray Ask God for a heart of compassion to reach out to those in need.



caves came out when they smelled the victory, and joined in the hot pursuit.

As the day ended, Jonathan and his armor-bearer praised God for what He had done through them. Never in their wildest dreams had they expected such an amazing result. Jonathan grinned at his armor-bearer. "I told you I had the impression God wanted us to get up and do something."

Friday

Read Read 1 Samuel 14:16-23.

Consider Who are you most like? □ Saul, the leader who does nothing; □ the scared Hebrews who run and hide until victory is sure; □ Jonathan, a young man of action; □ the armor-bearer, who supported the young man of faith.

Tell Tell the story to your family.

Discuss Whom do they think you are most like? Whom do they think they are most like?

Pray Ask God for the wisdom to stay connected with Him through faith, and the courage to face whatever He has for you to do in His power.



Be a True Worshiper

Instructions: Can you decipher this Bible verse?

Hint: This is NOT a letter substitution cryptogram.

“htu rtni dnatiripnsn ipih
srowtsu msr epihsr ow
sihdna, tir ipssi do G. skee
sre hta Feht sr epihsrowfo
dni kehter ayeht rof, ht
urtdna tir ips nirehta
Fehtpih srowlli ws repihs
row eu rteht.”